



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS Methamphetamine Funding

*"WHEN A PROBLEM AFFECTS
SO MANY ASPECTS OF THE
QUALITY OF LIFE IN A
COMMUNITY, IT OFTEN TAKES A
COLLECTIVE EFFORT FROM THE
COMMUNITY TO FULLY
ADDRESS IT. THE
METHAMPHETAMINE EPIDEMIC
IN OUR COUNTRY IS THE VERY
DEFINITION OF A COMMUNITY
PROBLEM, AND WE AT THE
COPS OFFICE HAVE MADE
COMBATING IT ONE OF OUR
PRIORITIES."*

*CARL R. PEED, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED
POLICING SERVICES*

Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names, crank, speed, ice, or crystal, is expanding across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories, often located in remote areas, methamphetamine is cheap and addictive. Methamphetamine spreads easily, due largely to easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals and simple preparation methods. Today methamphetamine labs can be found almost anywhere—suburban settings, apartments, hotels, warehouses, and garages. The labs used to produce meth can range in size from small "mom and pop" labs to super-labs and pose serious health risks to law enforcement professionals and to the citizens who live near them.

Since 1998, COPS has invested nearly \$300 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine. In fiscal year 2003, COPS awarded \$57.1 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem. This funding supports a variety of enforcement, training, and lab clean-up activities nationwide, but is concentrated in areas with the greatest need for assistance in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use.

COPS Methamphetamine Grants

COPS Methamphetamine grant funds support a variety of enforcement, intervention, and prevention efforts by state and local law enforcement agencies. The COPS Office encourages agencies to focus on community policing approaches to methamphetamine reduction. COPS also works directly with agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate implementation, and disseminate results to other communities confronting similar challenges. COPS encourages sites to develop partnerships with other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, fire departments, other local law

enforcement, mental health, child protection services, and local businesses, to combat methamphetamine in their communities.

Among the projects funded in fiscal year 2003, ten jurisdictions received awards to establish or expand their Drug Endangered Children (DEC) programs in response to the vast number of children endangered in drug environments. Law enforcement agencies will utilize COPS funds to partner with social service agencies to investigate and evaluate children who have been exposed or are at risk based on their parents' or guardians' involvement with methamphetamine. In addition, three pilot storage container sites were selected in a joint effort between COPS and the Drug Enforcement Administration to streamline the process that state and local law enforcement agencies use to collect hazardous waste from methamphetamine laboratories.

COPS funds are also used by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide training to state and local law enforcement professionals on clandestine lab enforcement operations including basic certification, site safety officer, and tactical training. The DEA also uses COPS funding to improve the clandestine lab information-gathering capabilities of the El Paso Intelligence Center, to carry out regional information sharing conferences, and to assist state and local law enforcement in cleaning up methamphetamine lab sites. COPS-funded regional training conferences were also continued in fiscal year 2003, and included awareness training for law enforcement, first responders, and community members.

Contact COPS

For more information on COPS Methamphetamine funding, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.